

# CITRUS *view*

LATEST NEWS FROM CITRUS COLLEGE



## Outstanding colleagues honored with new award

Five Citrus College employees were recently honored at Flex Day. Pictured (L-R): Areej Qasqas, Tommy Reyes, Darla Ramirez, Gwen Harris and Dr. Elaine Lipiz Gonzalez.

Citrus College recently recognized five employees for their significant contributions to the campus community.

During Flex Day on Feb. 17, Dr. Greg Schulz, superintendent/president of Citrus College, and other campus leaders announced the inaugural recipients of the newly established Outstanding Colleagues Award.

The 2026 honorees include:

**Gwen Harris**

*Schedule and Catalog Analyst*

Known for going above and beyond, Ms. Harris has played a vital role on campus since 2014. As schedule and catalog analyst, she assists with the development, preparation and timing of class schedules by working with academic and student services divisions.

Colleagues described Ms. Harris as creative, committed and inclusive. Others praised her ability to make every individual feel seen, heard and valued.

**Elaine Lipiz Gonzalez, Ed.D.**

*Dean of Counseling Programs and Services*

An experienced professional, educator and leader, Dr. Lipiz Gonzalez began serving as dean in December 2023. She works with multiple constituency groups on campus, including managers, faculty, classified staff, professional experts and students.

Peers consistently praised Dr. Lipiz Gonzalez as a team-player and collaborator who leads with empathy and compassion. She was also lauded for being an attentive listener and someone who holds an unwavering commitment to helping students reach their educational and career goals.

**Areej Qasqas**

*Adjunct Faculty, History*

Since joining the campus community nearly a decade ago, Ms. Qasqas has had an enormous impact on her students. She teaches history and government courses and serves as co-advisor of Beta Nu Eta, the college's chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) honor society.

In this role, Ms. Qasqas works closely with students and supports them as they enhance their academic and career leadership skills.

**Darla Ramirez**

*Administrative Secretary II (retired)*

From 2015 to 2025, Ms. Ramirez supported countless staff and students in her role as administrative secretary II.

Known for her passion, thoughtfulness and dependability, she routinely went above and beyond performing a variety of technical, secretarial and administrative support duties in the natural and physical sciences subdivision.

**Tommy Reyes**

*Faculty, Architecture*

Mr. Reyes joined the campus community as a full-time instructor in fall 2022 and teaches multiple courses each semester. In addition, he oversees the college's Architecture Club and mentors students as they take on large architecture projects, including Showers of Grace and Pando Populus.

Teammates credited Mr. Reyes for fostering an inclusive and collaborative learning environment for students. They also praised him for his integrity and empathy.